

Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division

SECURE & PREPARED



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>May Storm Assistance</i>	2
<i>Post-Disaster Plan Review</i>	2
<i>Marshall County Exercise</i>	3
<i>HSEEP Course</i>	3
<i>Annual Conference</i>	4
<i>Grant Deadlines</i>	4
<i>HSEMD Spotlight</i>	5
<i>Front Desk Changes</i>	5

Special points of interest:

- Presidential Disaster Declarations trigger plan review and recertification for declared counties. See article on page 2.
- Learn from the experts at this year's Governor's Homeland Security Conference, July 16-18. Discounted early bird registration ends June 29. For more information, see article on page 4.

Stay up-to-date on important upcoming grant deadlines, page 4.

Governor Thanks Iowans at "Fun in the Sun"

Governor Chet Culver and Lt. Governor Patty Judge thanked those involved in the winter and spring disaster operations at an event on Saturday, June 23, in Des Moines.

The "Fun in the Sun" event was held on the lawn of Terrace Hill. The Governor and Lt. Governor offered their heart-felt thanks to all who had worked to help citizens who were affected by the disasters.

"Clearly, the Governor and Lt. Governor understand the efforts made by everyday Iowans to help protect their communities," said Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division Administrator David Miller.

Hundreds of Iowans, including county emergency management coordinators, first responders, and staff from utility companies and government agencies, along with their families, were treated to plenty of food, music, crafts, games, and dancers.



Above, the Governor talks with DOT employee David May and family. Below, Chickasaw Cnty. Emergency Mgmt. Coord. Ken Rasing (back, right) along with HSEMD employee Susan Dixon and her sons (front).

Federal Disaster Assistance Request Denied

On Friday, June 22, federal officials notified Governor Chet Culver that a request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Louisa and Muscatine Counties was denied. Denial of a disaster declaration means FEMA federal programs will not be available to residents and public entities affected by the June 1 tornadoes in those counties.

"I am very pleased with local and state cleanup efforts and assistance to those affected by the tornadoes. Iowans always come together and help each other during difficult times, and the response to the tornadoes in southeast Iowa was no different," Culver said. "With many Iowa families still a long way away from rebuilding their homes, I am disappointed that FEMA has denied our request for disaster relief. However, we will do everything we can at the state and local level to continue offering assistance to those in need," he emphasized.

The State Individual Disaster Assistance program is available to help the most-needy Iowans affected by the tornadoes. More information on this program can be found on the Iowa Department of Human Services Web site at <http://www.dhs.state.ia.us> under the Spring Storm Help link.

Assistance for May Storms Reaches \$3.9 Million

Activity for the May severe weather and flooding in southwest Iowa is winding down in some areas, but remains at a hectic pace in others.

A request to add Audubon, Crawford and Monona Counties to the Presidential Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance was approved by FEMA on Friday, June 22. These three counties were already covered for Public Assistance under an earlier declaration. Damage assessments in Guthrie, Adams and Ringgold Counties were completed but eligible damages were not high enough to request a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

Individual Assistance Recap

As of June 21, a total of 1,348 Iowans have requested Individual Assistance in the 12 counties that had been, at that time, designated for this program. A total of \$1,944,604 has been approved which includes housing assistance and other needs assistance. The Small Business Administration has approved \$1,625,399 in low-interest loans.

The Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in Atlantic has been closed because of low levels of activity. The Mobile DRC is open in Shelby County through Wednesday, June 27. For information on Mobile DRCs for Audubon, Crawford and Monona Counties, visit www.iowahomelandsecurity.org and select the Western Iowa Spring Storm/Flooding link. Iowans can sign up for assistance by calling FEMA's registration center, 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). **The deadline for Individual Assistance is July 24.**

Public Assistance Recap

It is estimated that there will be just over 600 project worksheets, which estimate the scope and cost of projects, for this disaster. Most of the preliminary work has been completed and now the government agencies eligible under this program are completing the worksheets. As of June 21, \$358,329 has been obligated for the 18 counties eligible under the declaration.

Enhanced Mitigation Plan Pays Off

Because Iowa has an approved enhanced mitigation plan, the state is going to receive additional mitigation dollars. Iowa is one of 11 states with an approved enhanced plan and that will mean the state will receive an extra 25 percent, or some \$5 million dollars, in mitigation funds.

Presidential Disaster Declarations Trigger Plan Review

Counties that received a Presidential Disaster Declaration for severe storms, flooding and tornadoes that occurred May 5-7 must review, update, and recertify their Part B mitigation and Part C recovery plans.

The Iowa Administrative Code requires Parts B and C of countywide emergency operations plans to be reviewed, updated, and recertified by the county emergency management commission, and then submitted to HSEMD within 180 days of the formal closing of the disaster incident period. This is important because Iowa law says state participation in financial assistance in a presidentially-declared disaster is contingent upon the local government having on file a state-approved, comprehensive, countywide plan. November 3, 2007, is the deadline for declared counties to submit their recertified Parts B and C plans.

For more information, visit the HSEMD Web site at <http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/SpringStorm.asp> and select County Plan Review Requirements for Disaster 1705, or contact Ken Brink via phone at 515-725-3231 or e-mail at Kenneth.brink@iowa.gov.

Marshall County Exercises Mass Casualty Response

Marshall County Emergency Management assisted in the planning and execution of a full-scale exercise of the county's new mass casualty incident response system on June 10.

The exercise, sponsored by the Marshall County Emergency Medical Services Association (MCEMSA), simulated a school bus accident involving 30 students and five adults. County volunteer first responders participated in the exercise.

"Working in the incident command structure simultaneously was a learning experience for many of the participating agencies," said Marshall County Emergency Management Coordinator Deanna Bachman. "This exercise also helped our responders see how all the NIMS training can be put to use in real situations."

"The responders did a great job practicing incident and medical command," said MCEMSA President Kim Elder. "Community volunteers also helped tremendously by playing victims and members of the media."

A total of 117 people participated in the exercise. Volunteers ranged from Boy Scouts to children and friends of responders.



Above, volunteers in the Marshall County Emergency Medical Services Association full-scale exercise test their response to a school bus accident.

Left, exercise participants assist one of the 30 students who participated in the exercise designed to test the county's new mass casualty incident response system.

HSEEP Train-the-Trainer Course Well Attended

Twenty-nine local and state responders attended the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Train-the-Trainer course held June 6-9.

The course provided attendees background on HSEEP, a recently updated federal methodology for the design, conduct and evaluation of exercises. The four-day course covered exercise-specific materials as well as teaching techniques. This was the only HSEEP Train-the-Trainer course Iowa expects to hold.

The attendees for the course represented varied backgrounds, including a retired fire chief, paramedics, emergency managers, the Civil Air Patrol and various state and regional government staff. Each of Iowa's CDC/Hospital Preparedness Regions also sent regional staff to the training to develop a joint exercise methodology between emergency management, public health and hospitals. In addition to the Iowa attendees, the State of Nebraska sent a participant to take the training back home.

More details on the rollout of the new HSEEP will be shared at the Governor's Homeland Security Conference July 16-18, and later at regional homeland security meetings. The goal is to start rolling out the new training course in early fall across all disciplines.

Learn from the Experts at This Year's Annual Conference

What does the reorganization of FEMA mean to us in the fields of homeland security and emergency management? How can we better plan for special needs populations and school terrorism? How can we work better with the media during disasters? Learn more about these, and other, important topics at the Fourth Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference.

The Conference, sponsored by the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, will be held July 16-18 at the Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines. The conference is an opportunity to learn from experts representing the many disciplines that comprise the homeland security and emergency management team.

Breakout sessions on day two of the conference will give attendees the opportunity to choose topics most relevant to them, and cover a wide variety of subjects, including the National Incident Management System, homeland security grants, and utilizing public information officers.

Exhibitors will be on hand with the latest state-of-the-art equipment and products. There are a wide variety of vendors again this year, including RACOM Corp. with its communications interoperability solutions, and a new vendor, ESRI, which provides support and education services for graphic information system users.

The conference is right around the corner and there are only a few days left to take advantage of the early bird registration fee of \$150. Deadline for early bird registration is June 29. After June 29, the registration fee increases to \$175 and must be paid at the door.

For an agenda or to register, visit www.iowahomelandsecurity.org and click on the conference link at the top of the page.



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Upcoming Grant Deadlines

- The Notice of Interest (NOI) deadline for all communities pursuing Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) project and planning funds is July 6, 2007. Contact John Wageman at 515-725-3225 for more information.
- The FFY 2007 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) third quarter reports are due July 30, 2007.
- Important EMPG Reminder: Any county emergency management agency planning to apply for the **FFY 2008 EMPG grant** must be compliant with planning, training, exercise requirements by September 30, 2007.

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HSEMD Mission

Lead, coordinate, and support homeland security and emergency management functions in order to establish sustainable communities and ensure economic opportunities for

HSEMD Spotlight: Curt Sullivan

Curt Sullivan is an asset protection specialist with the Threat Information Protection Program (TIPP), a component of HSEMD's homeland security coordination team.

Curt originally joined the Division in December of 2004 as a planner for Region 3. His current job responsibilities include day-to-day coordination with state, local, and federal leadership of the Critical Asset Protection Program,

the National Asset Database, and the Buffer Zone Protection Program. He also serves as project manager for the Automated Critical Asset Management System (ACAMS), in which he is working with state and local officials to develop a statewide implementation program.

Prior to joining HSEMD, Curt worked for the Northwest Iowa Planning and Development Commission in the areas of comprehensive land use planning, zoning ordinances, grants management, and local mitigation planning. He also assisted local coordinators with planning needs while with the Commission.

Curt is a graduate of Iowa State University. He is married with two children, and is expecting a third child early next year. Outside of office hours, he enjoys spending time with his family.



HSEMD Front Desk Changes

You might have noticed some new voices answering the main telephone line at HSEMD.

Mary Stephens has been reassigned to help Pat Hall and the Grants Bureau with all of the work associated with processing requests under Iowa's three Presidential Disaster Declarations. Mary now reports to the Joint Field Office and is expected to be on this assignment for the next 18 months.

Sue Lomica remains the anchor at the front desk, and HSEMD has used temporary employees to fill in and help Sue.

Thank you in advance for your patience as Sue trains Mary's replacement and the new person learns to transfer your calls to the right staff.

We're on the Web!

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org